

Response to questions posed by Councilman Felder he received from his constituents in District 7:

How and when was the contamination discovered at Lane Plating?

In 2015 the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) inspected the Lane Plating facility after it had ceased operations and closed. In December 2015 Lane Plating filed for bankruptcy and TCEQ completed an initial removal of wastes for offsite disposal. On March 17, 2016, TCEQ contacted EPA and requested assistance with soil and liquid waste sampling. EPA conducted assessments in April and September 2016. Based on these two assessments, EPA removed 188,000 pounds of wastes in October 2016 to remove the threat of exposure from contact with wastes.

In order to assess and remove long term risks to human health or the environment, the site was added to the Superfund site list in May 2018.

Will EPA collect samples and analyze the soil and groundwater in and around Joppa Preserve?

EPA will conduct the environmental sampling and are currently developing a sampling plan for the site. The intent of this sampling is to locate areas where contamination may have migrated. We will test soil, surface water runoff, and groundwater. If we find evidence that contamination from the Lane Plating site has migrated to the Joppa area we will investigate this. EPA will share all this information with the community.

Will EPA perform medical testing on citizens who live in Joppa Preserve?

Adding a site to the Superfund list does not mean that any members of the community have been exposed to contamination. EPA's actions under Superfund are to prevent future exposure to contamination and to restore safety to the site. While the Superfund law provides EPA with the authority to evaluate and address environmental problems, it does not provide authority to conduct medical testing

If residential properties in Joppa Preserve are impacted by releases from Lane Plating Works, are their funds from EPA to either help relocate, purchase, or remediate these properties?

At this time there is no evidence that residential properties in the Joppa Preserve are impacted by a release from the Lane Plating site. To investigate the possibility, EPA's sampling plan will document the extent of any potential releases from the Lane Plating site.

If a cleanup action is necessary, EPA will evaluate several response options and present these options to the community for comment.

Is there or will there be funds to help cover medical costs for Joppa preserve citizens who may be impacted by the releases at Lane Plating?

The Superfund law does not provide EPA the authority to compensate for medical costs. As mentioned previously, placement on the Superfund list does not mean that people have been exposed to contamination in the past. Addition to the list means that EPA can assess and act to prevent exposure to contamination in the future.

EPA is committed to work with the community to ensure that the information regarding site conditions is shared and that the community has input into proposed remedies for the site.